

## CAPITOL SEES FIRST OPENING FOR PEACE

Senators and Representatives  
in Washington Discuss  
Germany's Offer.

### HOPEFUL SIGNS AT LAST

"Terms Should Include Agree-  
ment for International  
Disarmament."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Germany's peace offer was almost the sole topic of discussion this afternoon at the Capitol, overshadowing all other matters. It was regarded by every one as a good sign, though it was felt the Entente nations could scarcely be expected to accept Germany's terms at this time. Nevertheless, it was felt it might be the opening wedge. Following are some of the comments:

**Senator Alice Pomeroy** (Democrat, Ohio). Foreign Relations—I do not believe any of the belligerents are sincere in any proposals they may make now for the restoration of peace. I believe President Wilson and our Ambassadors know more about this situation than all the rest of us put together, and they will act when the proper time arrives. Of course I favor mediation at the earliest possible moment compatible with the dignity of this nation and the events in Europe.

**Senator Warren G. Harding** (Republican, Ohio)—I am highly gratified that there is some prospect for peace, and I will be glad if the terms on which peace is made shall include an agreement for international disarmament. I believe our Government should go slow in its efforts for mediation, because I have observed that the fellow who too often tries to bring about peace between two combatants often gets a swat in the jaw himself.

#### Act of Great Moral Courage.

**Senator James D. Phelan** (Democrat, California)—I would say that the offer of Germany, if it be correctly stated, was an act of great moral courage and showed the proper spirit, because ordinarily such a proposal from an enemy might be construed as an act of weakness. I believe the Allies will be impressed by it, for they have been sorely tried.

**Senator F. M. Simmons** (Democrat, North Carolina)—It is very encouraging and I sincerely hope that it will lead to a just and lasting peace.

**Senator Morris Sheppard** (Democrat, Texas)—I am very much gratified to see this hopeful sign of peace. I am earnestly hopeful that an occasion will arise for the utilization of the friendly offers of the United States and the other neutral nations to terminate the war. I know the President is watching the matter closely and hopefully and that he has matters well in hand and will act promptly when he deems it advisable.

**Senator W. E. Borah** (Republican, Idaho)—We all hope for peace, but I do not see in the present situation much to encourage that hope.

**Senator P. J. McCumber** (North Dakota)—I do not believe the proposals mean anything. It will be another year of war at least before the allied Powers, in my opinion, would consider these proposals as the means of restoring peace.

**Senator A. B. Cummins** (Republican, Iowa)—A sign of peace is encouraging. Even the suggestion of peace overtures

is a ray of hope. France might accept these terms as they are stated here unless as an ally of Russia, she might find it necessary to back up Russia, which is being asked to give up a great deal. It seems to me, much will depend on the attitude of Great Britain. I fail to see where a neutral nation is justified in taking any steps at this time.

**Senator Wesley L. Jones** (Republican, Washington)—I do not see where we can find much encouragement in the proposals. I seriously doubt if any progress in the direction of peace can be made at this time.

**Senator John D. Works** (Republican, California)—I do not see where we can find much encouragement in the proposals. I seriously doubt if any progress in the direction of peace can be made at this time.

**Senator William Alden Smith** (Republican, Michigan)—I would be glad to see an opportunity presented itself for the United States to put forward peace proposals. These suggestions look hopeful. If all could get together in friendly conference a peaceful settlement could probably be reached. Japan and Russia following the Russo-Japanese war were far apart until they sat down to the conference table at Portsmouth.

**America Should Act Promptly.**  
**Senator William M. Keweenaw** (Republican, Iowa)—I regard the present proposals, if correctly reported, as a hopeful sign. I trust they will lead to peace. I feel certain that if there is anything to be gained by this war, it is to be gained by peace. I would encourage overtures for peace on the part of the United States we should act promptly.

**Senator William Hughes** (Democrat, New Jersey)—It is my earnest desire that the present terms will lead to some peace. I surely hope that something will be accomplished to stop the war.

**Senator Olie James** (Democrat, Kentucky)—We should go carefully in the matter. I do not want to be hasty or precipitate. The President knows best what to do and he will act when the time comes.

**Senator Lee S. Overman** (Democrat, North Carolina)—It is glad news. I think we should offer mediation whenever the opportunity presents itself. But we must not be too quick.

**Senator Oscar Underwood** (Democrat, Alabama)—We all hope the war will soon end. The President has the whole responsibility for mediation and is best qualified to say when the time has come to offer such offices. He is in touch. In the meantime, I do not believe that my personal opinion as to what should be done is either timely or valuable.

**Senator Reed Smoot** (Republican, Utah)—While I wish peace as earnestly as any one, I do not believe Great Britain would accept the terms proffered nor do I believe it would be a wise move on the part of the United States to offer to mediate upon any such terms.

**Favors a Decisive Victory.**  
**Senator John W. Weeks** (Republican, Massachusetts)—Mediation would leave this matter exactly where it is. It would not solve the great European problem. A decisive victory for one side or the other would do so. On such a decisive victory a permanent peace might be established.

**Senator Jacob H. Gallinger** (Republican, New Hampshire)—I think mediation or anything else should be attempted that would in any way tend to stop the war. I want the war stopped. It would not be indicative of our position if it would help. Roosevelt did not think it indelicate when he offered mediation to Russia and Japan. And he accomplished something by that offer.

**Sentiment in the House.**  
**Speaker Champ Clark** was one of those who expressed the hope that there would be at least a beginning toward peace made. "No one knows how long it will take," he said, "or what the conclusion may be, but every one hopes the negotiations will be begun. If the reply of the Allies is not a flat rejection that much will have been accomplished. God knows we all want to see the war stopped. The earlier German proposals

seem to have been framed according to the map, the doctrine of uti possidetis—that each one might keep what he has. This last proposal appears to give up conquered territory. In that respect it shows a much more conciliatory spirit."

**Representative Mann**, the minority leader, was even more hopeful. "I have felt for months," he said, "that the President will take the proper steps to bring about peace—not by openly suggesting it, but by secret proposals through proper diplomatic channels. I am very happy to learn that one of the belligerents has made a proposal which will serve as a basis for negotiations. I hope the President will act as something more than a messenger boy and will use his influence in urging the fighting nations to put up the sword."

#### People of U. S. Want Peace.

**Representative Flood**, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, likewise expressed the hope that something would come of the German initiative. "The people of this country," he said, "want peace, and we all hope that negotiations will be undertaken to that end."

**Representative Fess of Ohio**, one of the Republican leaders in the House, said: "I regard the German proposals as profoundly significant. Coming at this particular time, they involve no humiliation on the part of the proponent. Germany is now in a very advantageous position. If it has not already been imposed upon France and Great Britain that Germany cannot be starved out they should learn very soon that since their acquisition of Rumania, a vast storehouse of supplies, the plan for exhausting Germany through starvation must now be abandoned."

"The situation in Great Britain and France must be unsatisfactory. The British Cabinet has been dissolved and a practical dictatorship set up in its stead, although British boasts of being a popular Government. The domestic situation in France is just as bad. Under all these circumstances I believe the suggestion emanating from the German Chancellor will make an impression on the neutral nations and may turn out to be the first step in the direction of peace."

#### BATTLEFIELD TO BE SHOWN.

**Preparedness Bazaar Opens Tomorrow in Grand Central Palace.**

A preparedness bazaar will open in Grand Central Palace to-morrow night under the auspices of several of New York's patriotic societies. One of the largest exhibitors will be the American Red Cross, which will show a model battlefield ten by twenty-four feet, on a scale of one-half inch to a foot, made of macerated money obtained from the United States Treasury. A battle is shown in progress and the Red Cross hospital bases are set up behind the lines.

The organizations back of the bazaar include the Daughters of the American Revolution, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, United States Junior Naval Reserves, Junior American Guard, Women's National Committee, American Defence Society, Patriotic Order Sons of America, American Blue Cross Fund for Military Heroes, Modern Woodmen of America, Troop 100, Manhattan Boy Scouts of America, American Women's League for Self-Defense, Non-Commissioned Officers' Volunteer League of America, American Red Cross, the Old Guard, Elton Boy Brigade and Girls Hospital Corps of the United States.

A prize will be given to the most popular regiment in the New York National Guard, the winner to be determined by vote at the bazaar. A junior preparedness parade will be held next Saturday from Columbus Circle to Grand Central Palace.

**Rough Weather Delayed Meeting.**  
**St. John, N. B., Dec. 12.**—The Furmen's Line steamer *Messina*, seven days overdue on a voyage from London to this port, arrived here today. Rough weather caused the delay, her captain reported.

## EDITORIAL VIEWS OF THE SITUATION

"Staats-Zeitung" Says Ger-  
many's Action Is Honest Ef-  
fort for Peace.

### "WORLD" SEES TRUCE AIM

"American" Declares That the  
Safety of United States Is  
Also Involved.

Editorial comments in New York newspapers on the peace proposals follow:

**Staats-Zeitung.**  
Before the tribunal of humanity and world history the German Imperial Chancellor in the name of the German nation and its allied comrades in arms has declined the responsibility for a prolongation of this horrible world conflict. The Chancellor's exposition will dispose of the idea that Germany is forced to seek peace.

It will be well to guard against attaching importance to any speculations and calculations emanating in the camp of the Allies with regard to the nature of the terms which Germany and her allies have made conditional to making peace.

Wherever on the face of the globe prejudice and vindictiveness have not altogether deafened the people's ears the honest will to peace on the part of Germany and her allies will have been heard in the words of the Imperial German Chancellor.

The moral impression of this honest will must in itself have far-reaching effects. If the Allies, in the face of this willingness for peace by conciliation should persist in their desire for a peace by destruction, they will place themselves in the wrong.

The sort of peace that has the destruction of the opponent as a pre-condition makes war matter entirely separate from itself. And such a view would mean a concession that the policy, whose continuation was war, was aimed at destruction.

The Chancellor has said that if the Entente Powers reject the offer of peace the four allied nations are resolved to fight on to the victorious end. This firm resolution, such unshakable will to victory, will be the most effective advocate of peace.

**New Yorker Herald.**  
Even the most rabid allies of the Allies did not dare yesterday in their inflammatory newspapers to suggest to their readers the theory that this offer of peace is a sign of weakness and of the approaching collapse of the Central Powers.

The countries selfishly exploited by England, France, Russia and Italy are exhausted in man power and resources; the peoples are becoming restive, and everywhere loom crises.  
At this juncture the Central Powers make an offer of peace. Whether it will be accepted is not clear. Yesterday afternoon the London evening papers began to fear the proposal. At any rate, however, even the bought and mendacious press of the "neutral" countries will be unable to deny that the Governments of the Central Powers have undertaken the appropriate moment, to make clear to their own peoples and to the whole world in a clever way that they are ready to make peace and that a prolongation of the war, exactly as its beginning, will have to be charged to the account of the Allies, and particularly of perfidious Alsion.

**New York World.**  
The most important thing about the German peace proposals is the fact that they have been made.

It may be taken for granted that the terms proposed by the Imperial Chancellor will not be accepted by the Allies. Neither the British nor the French Government could consent to any terms which Germany would make without the certainty of revolution at home. The sacrifices made by the British and French peoples have been too appalling to admit of a peace imposed in Berlin to suit German exigencies until at least one more desperate effort has been made to break the military power of the Teutonic empires.

All that can be reasonably expected from the German peace proposals at this time is a general discussion of terms and the terms cannot be confined to territorial questions. The vital issue of militarism is still to be considered. The war is the product of that issue, and until Germany is prepared to consider the matter of armaments the Allies will have a right to assume that what the Imperial Government has proposed is not a peace but a truce.

#### New York American.

The momentous event of yesterday ought to be the beginning of the end of this dreadful war. The important thing is not the reasonableness or the unreasonableness of the German proposals. The vitally important thing is that peace proposals have been officially made by one of the warring groups. No one familiar with history would expect the terms finally agreed upon to be the terms first submitted by one group.

It is reasonable to assume that the Allied Powers, if they do not refuse to negotiate, will come back with demands that Russia sacrifice no territory, that the Dardanelles be made an open strait, that Belgium receive a recompense and that Serbia retain its national existence and independence. Those would probably be the minimum counter demands of the Allies.

Anything much further than those demands would end peace negotiations, for it is sure that the people of the Central Empires will consider their Government's present proposals too moderate and will not listen to any proposals that would seem to put them in the light of the vanquished instead of the victors.

The balance of power in Continental Europe and the freedom of the seas are as essential to the safety and the peace of the United States as they are to the safety and peace of every nation in the Old World.

#### New York Times.

The question of immediate interest is whether peace will really come from this overture. The picture presented to the view of the world should be attentively studied. The Chancellor's speech yesterday gives no definite information about the terms proposed.

The note proves to be equally barren of definite proposals. There is vainglorious boasting of gigantic advantages gained over the enemy, and the purpose is announced to continue to a victorious end. Beyond that we have nothing but a request for good offices. The note sent to the Vatican is in no sense more definite.

The most that can be hoped for is that the Allies may make use of the opportunity to propose counter terms. We may be sure that they would be very different from the terms of the German note.

All these things may be viewed as a step toward peace, but it can be an assured step, a step not to be retraced, only if the German people are ready to force upon their Government a change of form and a change of heart.

## F. R. COUDERT THINKS PEACE TIME UNRIPE

"Issues of War Have Not Yet  
Been Settled," Says Coun-  
sel for France.

### STATUS QUO IMPOSSIBLE

Guarantees for Future, Indem-  
nity and End of Prussian-  
ism Required.

Frederic R. Coudert, counsel for the French Government, expressed the opinion that there could be no peace at this time. He dictated the following statement for THE SUN:

"Peace, although always desirable as an abstract proposition, is not, I believe, possible at the present time. The issues of the war have not yet been settled. No peace can be permanent until these issues are determined. France, Great Britain and Russia will enter into no peace which has not in its elements of permanency. No peace which ignores the causes of the war can be a real peace. It would only be a cessation of hostilities.

"The status quo ante-bellum cannot be restored. The death of several millions of men, endless misery and devastation have made such a thing impossible. To restore the status quo, involving Germany dominated by Prussianism, to make peace while Germany is at least to superficial appearances victorious would leave Europe in as dangerous a situation as in 1912.

#### Guarantees for the Future.

"Restoration of territory is not sufficient. There must be reparation as far as reparation may be made in money for the damage done, and above all there must be guarantees for the future. These guarantees will not and cannot exist until that state of mind called Prussianism and now dominant in central Europe has been eliminated. It may yet require many months of suffering to reach this result, but in the end not only the Allies but Germany itself will be the better off by the creation of a state of affairs in which law and right shall have definitely triumphed over might.

"The governing class in Germany knows that in the end they must be beaten, and the present proposition is an attempt to shift the odium of the war on to her opponents. The attempt will not deceive those who have watched the situation intelligently.

"The interests of America require that the struggle should be settled on the basis of right and that those elements which have set the principles of modern civilization at defiance should be finally defeated. Until this can be done there can be no peace in Europe and no rest or succor from anxiety in America."

#### E. H. Gary Fears Adverse Effect.

Albert H. Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel Corporation, said the prospect of peace is pleasing to him, but that unless the tariff laws of the nation are changed the cessation of hostilities would have an adverse effect, if not disastrous effect on American industry and labor.

"Conditions will be even worse than they were before October 1, 1912, and the beginning of the war," said Mr. Gary. "If the laws shall be amended and adequate protection to American producers and their workmen be afforded, we may expect satisfactory business conditions for some time to come."

"Whenever the war shall close, the business of this country will be confronted with new conditions. Our producers, including our wage earners, will find themselves in commercial antagonism with the most persistent and difficult competition ever experienced, unless this shall be prevented by laws that are reasonable and sufficient."

#### Views of Oscar S. Straus.

Chairman Oscar S. Straus of the Pub-

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lic Service Commission, who was Ambassador to Turkey, said he could not express a definite opinion on the peace terms as outlined, but he saw nothing in them to insure permanent peace. His statement follows:

"From the brief outline of the terms of peace proposed by Germany contained in the Washington despatch to THE EVENING SUN, it is not possible to predicate a definite opinion. These terms contain no reference to what I regard as the most important subject of consideration; namely, how and in what manner is the peace of the world to be maintained after this war is over so as to guard against another catastrophe such as the world is now subjected to."

"I think it may be said that all the nations engaged in this war want peace—a peace of justice, a peace that will insure the rights of all nations, great and small, a peace that will safeguard the future."

"Germany's peace proposals seem to me to be extremely moderate and they should form a desirable basis for negotiations." Prof. William R. Shepherd of Columbia University said yesterday in commenting upon the note sent out to neutral nations by Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg.

When asked whether he thought the proposals would be accepted Prof. Shepherd said: "That is a different question. But at least the offer should form the basis for the start of ultimate peace negotiations and a series of cross proposals which may result in bringing about the end of the war."

Prof. Cateston J. Hayes of the history department of Columbia University declared the peace proposals were reasonable in view of the present military situation.

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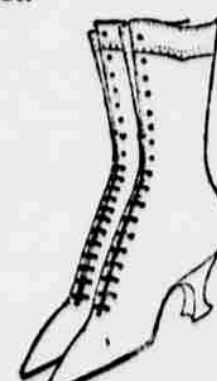
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